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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/827,048	04/05/2001	Stephen Cutler	CUTLP0101USA	4511

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

GILMAN, ALEXANDER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2833	

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/827,048	CUTLER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Alexander Gilman	2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 24, 26, 30, 31 and 33-46 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 24, 26, 30, 31, and 33-46 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Art Unit: 2833.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. Claims 24, 26, 30, 31, 33-37, 39-41, and 43- 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tozuka et al in view of Gelati.

With regard to claims 39, and 43 -44, Tozuka (US Pat. No. 5,454,730) discloses (Fig. 1) a locking connector comprising:

an electrical contact component (21) including a contact section (27), another section (28), and an intermediate section (26) with an opening (26) that receives a second conductor (2) ;
at least one electrically-conductive spring locking clip (22).

Tozuka do not disclose a first conductor and a release hole formed through said contact section transversely offset from said opening.

Gelati disclose a first conductor and a release hole (12) formed through said contact section transversely offset from said opening.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the Tozuka device with a release hole formed through said contact section, as taught by Gelati , to conveniently handle inserting and removing the second conductor using a tool.

With regard to claims 24, 26, 40, 41, 45 and 46, Tozuka discloses the conductive clip (22) comprising a leaf spring secured to the another section (28).

With regard to claims 30, 31, 33, 34 and 37, Tozuka discloses the guide means (29) and the enclosure (11,

12).

With regard to claims 35 and 36, Tozuka when modified by Gelati discloses (Gelati) the first conductor and the additional locking spring.

2. Claims 38 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tozuka et al in view of Gelati as applied to claim 39 above, and further in view of Kubota et al.

Art Unit: 2833.

Tozuka et al when modified by Gelati discloses all of the limitations except for the grip locking end portion is transversely curved.

Kubota et al (US Pat. No. 4,673,232) disclose (Fig. 1 or 7) the grip locking end portion (1a) is transversely curved.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to manufacture the Gelati's grip locking end portion transversely curved, as taught by Kubota et al , to make the end portion correspondent to the configuration of the second conductor.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 38 and 42 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's arguments filed 09/21/01 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With regard to claims 38 and 42, Applicants argue that the prior art (Kubota et al) do not disclose the grip locking end portion being transversely curved. In Fig 1 or 7, Kubota et al disclose the locking end portion (1a) being transversely curved. The configuration of the transversely curved locking end portion of Kubota et al is similar to that of the current specification (Fig. 14, r.n. 159).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Gilman whose telephone number is (703) 305-0847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7724 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.

Art Unit: 2833

AG

November 26, 2001

P. Austin Bradley
P. AUSTIN BRADLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800